

SENATOR BEREUTER: The ground water conservancy district's purpose is to assist the property owners in that district to conserve ground water by every means available, at their disposal, every means--technological changes, changes in planning patterns, research of all kinds.

SENATOR KOCH: To your knowledge are they carrying out this objective?

SENATOR BEREUTER: Yes. They are doing it better than any other institution I know of in the state.

SENATOR KOCH: Is there a conflict with the NRD in terms of what their role is?

SENATOR BEREUTER: No, they both have similar powers, but there is coordination mechanisms set up in LB 577.

SENATOR KOCH: Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'd like to ask Senator Bereuter a couple questions, if he would yield please. Senator Bereuter, are you supporting these amendments now?

SENATOR BEREUTER: I emphatically am not supporting the amendment.

SENATOR CULLAN: You are not supporting these amendments?

SENATOR BEREUTER: That's correct, I am not. I am opposed to it.

SENATOR CULLAN: Okay. Could I ask you one question then? What is the.... You said that the role and missions, that's a popular term, the role and missions of these two districts are similar.

SENATOR BEREUTER: Well there is an overlap in responsibilities. The Natural Resource District has a much broader responsibility, perhaps potentially the most powerful political subdivision in the state.

SENATOR CULLAN: So the Natural Resource District has the technical authority through the statutes to do anything to control ground water that the ground water conservancy district could do. Is that correct?

SENATOR BEREUTER: To my knowledge that is correct.

SENATOR CULLAN: In fact, they can do considerably more. Is that correct?

SENATOR BEREUTER: Very much more, in a variety of things, having nothing to do with ground water for instance.

SENATOR CULLAN: Okay. Thank you very much, Senator Bereuter. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I do not have any ground water conservancy districts in my own legislative district. But I do not understand the need for them as it appears to me from Senator Bereuter's answers to my question that they duplicate exactly the NRD's. I would hope that we would adopt